

Catholic youth shot dead in Belfast

BELFAST (R) — A gunman shot dead an 18-year-old Catholic in Belfast Monday in the latest in a wave of sectarian and other killings in the British-ruled province, police said. Tony Dawson died in hospital after a gunman in a car shot him in the head as he stood talking to a friend. Police said Protestant gunmen probably carried out the attack, which brought to 26 the number of people killed in the province in the past two months. The attack follows a weekend warning by police that Irish republican guerrillas, fighting to end British rule, could launch a Christmas bomb blitz in the mainly-Protestant province. Seven soldiers in the mainly-Protestant Ulster Defence Regiment, a locally-recruited part of the British army, have meanwhile been charged with murdering the brother of a nationalist guerrilla last month.

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U.N. chief voices concern over bombings

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar voiced concern over the bombings in Kuwait, which he termed criminal acts. After a meeting with the Kuwaiti delegate, Mohammad Abulhasan, Mr. Perez de Cuellar issued this statement: "The secretary general has learned with concern of the bombing incidents which took place in Kuwait Monday morning and which were directed at various targets, including diplomatic premises. He deplores these criminal acts of violence and the resulting loss of innocent lives and material damage."

Tunis urges lifting of Tripoli blockade

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia Monday appealed for the lifting of the blockade of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat and his fighters in the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli. The Tunisian news agency TAP said. Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caïd Essebsi said he had discussed with the Syrian chargé d'affaires and the Soviet, French and Italian ambassadors their ways to lift the Israeli blockade of Tripoli.

Militiamen detain British soldiers

BEIRUT (R) — Three British soldiers in the multinational force strayed into southern suburbs of Beirut Monday and were briefly detained by gunmen, a British military spokesman said. The soldiers, in uniform and armed, were on patrol in a Land Rover when the driver took a wrong turning into the Haret Hreik area controlled by the Shi'ite Muslim militia Amal. The gunmen released them and their vehicle unharmed after less than an hour, he said.

Luce to visit Oman, UAE

LONDON (R) — Foreign Office Junior Minister Richard Luce will visit Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) this week as part of a series of familiarisation visits to the region. The Foreign Office said Mr. Luce would arrive in Oman on Wednesday and leave for the UAE on Saturday. He will return home next Tuesday.

Israelis warn former detainees

SIDON (R) — Israeli military authorities in South Lebanon Monday summoned about 2,000 Lebanese and Palestinian former detainees to warn them against any hostile activity. Lebanese security sources said. Most of those summoned were released from the Ansar Prison camp in South Lebanon on Nov. 24.

Death toll rises in Tanzanian disaster

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — The death toll from last Saturday's rail disaster when a passenger train crashed after hitting a 100 kilogramme iron bar deliberately planted on the line has risen from 19 to 21, Radio Tanzania said Monday. Police have arrested two people from a village near where the Dar Es Salaam-bound train was derailed, 480 kilometres west of the capital, the radio said.

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U.S., French embassies attacked • Beirut group claims responsibility

Kuwait blasts kill 4, injure 54

KUWAIT (R) — Six bombs in the Gulf state of Kuwait, two of them directed against the U.S. and French embassies, Monday killed at least four people and injured 54, government officials and diplomatic sources said.

Bombs also exploded at the international airport, the Electricity and Water Ministry, a residential complex used by Americans and an industrial site on the city outskirts, while a seventh bomb was defused near a government passport office.

In Beirut, the so-called "Islamic Jihad" (holy war) organisation said it had carried out the bombings. It was one of the groups that claimed responsibility for the Oct. 23 bomb attacks on U.S. and French military bases in Beirut.

The Kuwait New Agency (KUNA) said a number of people were being held for investigation but gave no details.

A U.S. embassy official told Reuters three or four people were killed and 15 injured when a truck filled with explosives blew up in the mission's walled compound, causing extensive damage. He said no Americans were killed.

KUNA quoted eyewitnesses as saying the truck-driver had been on a suicide mission, similar to the Beirut attacks in which nearly 300 servicemen died.

But the driver survived and was taken to hospital, the agency said. His identity was not disclosed.

A Kuwaiti official told Reuters at least one person was killed in the attack at the airport.

A French embassy employee told Reuters an explosion in the mission compound caused by a booby-trapped car blew a big hole in the surrounding wall and damaged parts of the embassy.

He said three embassy staff, including a Syrian woman, and two passers-by were injured. Four cars were destroyed.

The American official said parts

been banned from leaving Kuwait until further notice, airport officials said.

The ban applies to Iraqis, Jordanians, Lebanese, Syrians, Iranians and Palestinians holding passports of any of those countries or laissez-passer documents.

All passengers arriving at the airport were being held in the terminal and officials said it might be at least two or three hours before they would be allowed into the city.

U.S. sources said there were apparently no casualties at the residential complex, although some damage was caused.

Blast near refinery

KUNA said a yellow truck with no number plate and loaded with gas cylinders exploded near a gas refinery at the major industrial and petrochemical complex of Shuaiba.

Diplomats said security around foreign missions, especially the U.S., French and British embassies, was intensified after the bombings. Several roads were blocked and armoured vehicles were visible.

Security was also stepped up around U.S., French and other missions in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and other Gulf states, diplomats said.

Elite security police surrounded the U.S. embassy in Bahrain and police helicopters circled the diplomatic quarter.

Kuwait, a small but oil-rich

Travel ban imposed

At the airport, eyewitnesses said a booby-trapped car exploded under the control tower, about 100 metres from the main terminal building, nearly 30 minutes after the U.S. embassy blast. They said debris was flung over a wide area.

The airport was operating normally Monday afternoon, according to officials of the Gulf state of 1.4 million people which borders on Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Explosion at airport

Palestinians and nationals of five Middle East countries have

Regent contacts Sheikh Sa'd

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday contacted Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sa'd Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah, expressing regret for the explosions that took place in some areas of the Kuwaiti capital Monday morning, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The Regent, who contacted Sheikh Sa'd by telephone, wished the injured a speedy recovery, Petra said. Sheikh Sa'd thanked Prince Hassan on behalf of the Kuwaiti government and people for the brotherly gesture, the agency added.

Tripoli port ready for evacuation

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Port authorities said Monday repairs at Tripoli harbour had been completed and Yasser Arafat and his supporters would be able to sail by Wednesday if international guarantees for their safety were secured by then.

Lebanese security sources in this northern port city said workmen and technicians had finished their work and frogmen had swept the harbour bottom looking for any unexploded shells from the recent fighting between Palestinian factions.

All was now ready for Greek ships which are scheduled to pick up Mr. Arafat and his fighting forces. Flags had been put up on buoys near the sites of sunken ships inside the port.

Greece has agreed to provide naval transport for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman and his men provided it secures safety guarantees from the four countries of the multinational peace force in Beirut.

The sources said 400 Lebanese gendarmes of the internal security force and 300 local guards would move into the port area to oversee the evacuation of an estimated 4,000 guerrillas and civilians.

PLO seeks protection

Ahmad Abdulrahman, Mr. Arafat's spokesman, told Reuters Monday the PLO chairman had requested air cover from Syria and Saudi Arabia because he feared an Israeli attack on his guerrillas during the evacuation.

After the Israeli aggression, we are afraid that Israel will take advantage of our troops massing at the port to attack so we asked for Syrian and even Saudi air support," he said.

Israel has rejected a Greek government request of guarantees for the safety of the Greek evacuation flotilla.

In Cairo, and Cyprus Monday discussed a role Cyprus could play in the planned evacuation.

Foreign Ministry sources said Minister of State Boutros Ghali discussed the potential Cypriot role with a visiting Cypriot parliamentary delegation.

They said Cyprus could be a transit point for ships carrying the guerrillas to various parts of the Arab World.

Arafat expects Syrian attack

Meanwhile in Baghdad Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying Monday he was convinced Syria was planning a major offensive to oust him from Tripoli.

He told the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra the Syrians continued to reinforce their positions and an armoured brigade had been brought into the area.

"Therefore we are now besieged by two (Syrian) divisions and a Syrian-controlled Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) brigade," he was quoted as saying.

Shultz: Attack on PLO ships unlikely

LISBON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Monday he did not believe that Greek ships would be attacked if they tried to evacuate Yasser Arafat and Palestinian fighters from the Lebanon port of Tripoli.

Israel has opposed the evacuation and refused to rule out an attack on the Arafat loyalists, who have been engaged in fighting with Syrian-backed rebels.

Mr. Shultz arrived in Lisbon to initial a new agreement with Portugal on American use of a big air base in the Azores.

Mr. Shultz flew from Rabat where he had explained new U.S. ties with Israel to Morocco's King Hassan. Lisbon is his final stop in a week-long five-nation trip that began in Bonn.

In a press conference aboard his plane, Mr. Shultz said he believed the Israelis were unlikely to state publicly that they would not attack, and that they found the prospect of a Tripoli evacuation under a United Nations flag "distressing".

But he added: "I also have the impression that the Greek ships are not going to be attacked by anybody."

Greece had offered to transport the pro-Arafat Palestinians from Lebanon and asked Israel for guarantees that its ships would not be attacked.

Mr. Shultz said commandos of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were among foreign forces the United States wanted to see pulled out of Lebanon. "Let's get them out," he added.

explain its plans for political and military co-operation with Israel because there was "gross misunderstanding" of the situation.

Asked whether this applied to government officials he had met during his trips to Tunis and Rabat, he said Morocco's King Hassan had a "quite full" understanding of U.S. goals.

"We had a chance to express what we are doing and why to the Tunisians," he said.

On leaving Tunis on Saturday Mr. Shultz said he had received "an earful" from his hosts.

During his stay in Lisbon, Mr. Shultz will discuss southern African problems with Portuguese officials.

Shultz reassures Morocco on U.S.-Israel pact, page 2



Kuwaiti police and investigators inspect the compound of the United States embassy Monday, following a car bomb explosion which killed four foreign employees.

state with one of the highest per capita income rates in the world. lies at the north-west end of the Gulf close to the war zone where Iran and Iraq have been fighting for more than three years.

The "Islamic Jihad" is one of the groups which claimed responsibility for the Oct. 23 twin car bomb attacks against the U.S. Marine and French military bases in Beirut which killed 240 American servicemen and 58 French paratroopers.

It had also claimed responsibility for the bombing of the American embassy in Beirut on April 18 which killed a total of 63 people.

Little is known about the Shadowy group whose main targets appear to be French and American institutions.

'U.S. moves will continue'

The bomb attack on the U.S. embassy in Kuwait will not dis-

tract Washington from its search for peace and stability in the Middle East, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said in Rabat.

Speaking before leaving for Portugal after a two-day visit to Morocco, Mr. Shultz referred to Monday morning's bombing and said:

"We are struggling for peace and stability in the area but what happened today reminds us of the difficulties. We will do our share. We will continue to pursue peace and stability."

In Paris, an External Relations Ministry spokesman, expressing France's "strong emotion" at the series of bomb blasts, said the government was confident that Kuwait would find and bring to justice "those responsible for these odious attacks."

Gulf security stepped up, page 2

Dollar goes up following Kuwait bombings, page 7

'U.S. had attack warning'

WASHINGTON (R) — Monday's truck bomb attack on the U.S. embassy in Kuwait killed four foreign employees and injured 37 other people, the State Department said.

Spokesman Alan Romberg said there had been earlier threats of an attack on the embassy and precautions had been taken.

But guards may not have had time to shoot as the truck careered around a corner, smashed through a gate and exploded near a large embassy annex building, he told reporters.

State Department officials said

U.S. Marines were guarding the gate and an official who did not want to be named said Kuwait national guardsmen were also on guard duty.

Mr. Romberg said two of the dead were foreign employees working in the maintenance section and the others were not yet identified. No Americans were killed or seriously injured but several suffered minor injuries.

He said 20 of the 37 injured were foreign employees, some of whom were in serious condition. The other 17 were visitors to the embassy or private contractors.

U.S. forces quit Grenada

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (R) — About 1,000 United States paratroopers left Grenada Monday, completing the total withdrawal of American combat troops 11 days ahead of the deadline set by Washington, a senior U.S. military officer said.

Major-General Jack Ferris, commander of U.S. forces in Grenada, told reporters that 1,200 U.S. military police and support troops are left on the island and that number would be reduced to 300 by Thursday.

The battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division which left Monday

arrived in Grenada two days after the start of the Oct. 25 invasion. Washington had said U.S. combat troops would be withdrawn from Grenada by Dec. 23.

The soldiers boarded six C-141 army transport planes at sunrise at the dusty, half-built Point Salines airport, the site of heavy fighting between U.S. troops and Cubans after the U.S.-led invasion.

The six planes with the paratroopers aboard took off one after the other for the four-hour flight back to Pope Air Base in North Carolina.

Kohl urges East-West talks invites Andropov

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl Monday urged Moscow to preserve top-level contacts with the West and called on Kremlin leader Yuri Andropov to visit Bonn.

The West German leader, addressing a leadership meeting of his Christian Democratic Party (CDU), also said he would welcome a summit between Mr. Andropov and President Reagan next year.

He said the West would keep all

doors open for agreement on limiting inter-continental and medium-range nuclear missiles, reducing conventional forces and banning all chemical weapons from Europe.

"We will also use every chance of co-operation in other areas — political, economic, cultural and humanitarian," Mr. Kohl said.

He added: "For this reason, I expressly repeat my invitation to (Soviet Communist Party) General Secretary Andropov."

Beirut clashes erupt before new truce

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese troops clashed with anti-government militiamen in Beirut's southern suburbs Monday shortly before a new ceasefire came into effect, security sources said. As the fresh fighting flared, a special security committee failed to meet as planned for the first time in eight days to discuss the reopening of Beirut airport, the sources added. They said militiamen from a Shi'ite populated slum neighbourhood fired 10 rounds of rocket-propelled grenades at nearby army positions. Several mortars were fired at army positions in the southern suburbs and the army returned fire, the sources said. There were no reports of casualties. The clashes followed a night of sporadic fighting between the Lebanese army and militiamen in spite of a ceasefire arranged in Damascus on Friday. State-run Beirut Radio said a ceasefire came into effect at 12.10 p.m. (1010 GMT), the third since Sunday.

King arrives in Paris

PARIS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in Paris Monday for talks with French President Francois Mitterrand on Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war, a Jordanian embassy spokesman said.

The King, who will meet Mr. Mitterrand Tuesday, is also expected to see French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson. He will address the European Parliament on Thursday.

The King, accompanied by Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, will discuss the Middle East and other issues of mutual interest with the French leader, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said in Amman.

In his address to the European Parliament on Thursday, the King is expected to emphasise the urgent need for peace in the Middle East and for a European role in the peace process, official sources said.

King cables Mubarak

On his way to Paris, as his plane

passed through Egyptian airspace, the King sent a telegram of good wishes to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak expressing sincere feelings of brotherhood and goodwill. Petra said. "I implore God that your efforts in the service of the common goals of our nation will succeed, and your labours action for the progress and prosperity of the Egyptian people will bear fruits soon."

The King was seen off from Amman by His Highness Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Tarawneh, National Consultative Council Speaker Suleiman Arar, Court Minister Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, cabinet ministers, Armed Forces Chief-of-Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb, senior civil and military officials and the French and British ambassadors to Jordan.

Earlier, Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent during the King's absence abroad.

Jordan, E.Germany sign co-operation agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Foreign Trade Minister in the German Democratic Republic (GDR), Dr. Gerhard Biel, Monday met His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent and Prime Minister Mudar Badran and signed an agreement with Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour on economic and technical co-operation between Jordan and the GDR.

Crown Prince Hassan received, Dr. Biel in the afternoon at the Royal Court, who conveyed the GDR prime minister's greetings to His Majesty King Hussein and the Crown Prince.

The two sides discussed economic and trade relations between the two countries and prospects for expanding and strengthening co-operation in various spheres, particularly the setting up of joint ventures, vocational training and exchange of expertise.

Dr. Biel expressed his country's appreciation of Jordan's just struggle and its Arab and international positions under the leadership of King Hussein.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Asfour and the GDR amb-

assador to Jordan.

Earlier in the afternoon Mr. Badran received Dr. Biel at the Prime Ministry. The two sides discussed various aspects of bilateral relations during the meeting, which was also attended by Mr. Asfour and the GDR ambassador.

The co-operation agreement, signed at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, provides for increasing the volume of trade exchange between the two countries to reach a balanced import-export balance, promoting co-operation in industry, mining, irrigation, construction works, transport, and agriculture.

In addition to the protocol on economic and technical co-operation the two sides signed a joint dossier of the talks between Mr. Asfour and Dr. Biel on developing and promoting economic, trade and technical relations between the two countries within the framework of the signed protocol.

According to the talks dossier, the GDR will in the near future import unspecified quantities of Jordanian phosphate and fertilisers, and assist Jordan in energy-generation projects.

Israeli terrorist cell active in occupied territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — Reports from the Israeli-occupied West Bank indicate that Jewish extremists are planning sabotage against Arab and Christian targets.

On Monday, a booby-trapped hand grenade exploded in the village of Haussan, near Bethlehem, when a woman opened the front door of her home. The blast caused no injuries. Two other grenades were found nearby and defused by Israeli police.

Monday's incident follows an explosion Saturday in one of the main streets of East Jerusalem which also caused no injuries but heightened security fears in the town.

Later Saturday night an Arab shop was set afire in the Christian quarter of the Old City.

On Friday, booby-trapped hand grenades were found and defused outside four Christian institutions in East Jerusalem.

Reports from occupied Jerusalem said Monday that a group calling itself "Terror Against Terror" claimed responsibility for planting the hand grenades found Friday.

The group had called an Israeli radio station but the radio did not broadcast the report upon

the request of police, the reports said.

Ten grenades — all of them Israeli army issue — have been planted and there had a spate of attacks on Arab cars and stores in the Jerusalem area during the past two weeks.

Police believe that one group had been responsible for planting all the hand grenades and a professionally trained underground terrorist cell is operating in the occupied territories, the reports said.

"Terror Against Terror", the Hebrew acronym of which is TNT, is a name that has been frequently used by Jewish terrorist cells in the past. Israeli police sources say the name has not been used in the past five years.

Most of the incidents indicate professional training behind them, police sources said. "The whole set-up was altogether too neat," a police source said, according to the reports, "with something about it reminiscent of IDF (Israeli Defence Force) training."

Israelis demolish Palestinian homes, page 2

British protesters besiege missile base, page 2

Twelve sentenced to hang for land sales to enemy

AMMAN (Petra) — Twelve people have been sentenced to death by hanging in absentia for selling land to the enemy.

The sentence, which also includes the confiscation of the criminals' property and the cancellation of the sale, has been approved by the cabinet after being passed by a special court for combating land-sale to the enemy.

The convicts are Sadiq Rashid Balyeh, Mohammad Shaker Odeh and Farid Mohammad Balyeh from the West Bank village of Fandug; Mahmoud Dawoud Sarsour from Habbah; Theeb

Othman Theeb, Mohammad Abdul Qader Abu Zuhair, Hassan Mohammad Abdul Qader, Ahmad Al Haj Awadh, Mohammad Shaker Da'san from the village of Hajjah; Hassan Ali Bashir from Safut; Majib Abdul Karim from Al Matin and Mufid Abdul Hafedh Abu Al Hidayeh from Kufir Laqif.

Sixty-year-old Amman-resident Abdul Jaber Qasem, known as Al Sarhad, from the village of Hajjah has been sentenced to 20-years imprisonment with hard labour and confiscation of his property.

Arab Thought Forum conference concluded

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Arab-American-Canadian conference, sponsored by the Amman-based Arab Thought Forum, Sunday concluded its two-day discussions at the Royal Cultural Centre here. Most of the 36 delegates from a variety of countries began leaving Jordan for their homes Monday morning.

After the opening session in which His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, delivered a keynote address Saturday afternoon though all discussions were held behind closed doors.

Officials at the conference said all the proceedings were tape recorded and will be transcribed, but that the transcripts will not be publicly released. A forum official said that no resolutions were passed by the conference, however.

After the conclusion of the conference, delegates were reluctant to discuss the substance of the conference's deliberations and stressed that the main function of the conference was to exchange ideas. But the great concern of some Arab delegates regarding the "new" American-Israeli agreements on strategic co-operation to some extent overshadowed the conference, according to participants.

In his address at the opening session of the conference, Crown Prince Hassan, who is the forum chairman, warned against the threat of a superpower confrontation erupting from the Middle East tensions and called for the entry of the Soviet Union into the peace process.

He also criticised the United

States, Syria and the PLO for contributing to the continued tragedy in Lebanon and to the regional instability.

Attending the conference on the opening night, in addition to delegates, was Crown Prince Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifah of Bahrain.

Delegates included 22 Arab politicians, diplomats, business leaders and intellectuals (seven forum trustees and 15 forum members and guests), six Americans, four Canadians and four European heads of international affairs institutes.

Among those distinguished participants were also Jordan's National Consultative Council (NCC) member, Dr. Khalil Salem, President of the council on U.S. Foreign Affairs in New York Winston Lord, former New York Times Middle East Correspondent Peter Grose, former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations and one time Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs William Barton, former leader of the opposition in the Canadian parliament and former premier of the province of Nova Scotia, Robert Stanfield, editor-in-chief of the leading Canadian daily newspaper Le Devoir Lise Bissionette, and the head of the British-Royal Institute of International Affairs.

"The Arab Thought Forum" was formed in March 1981 to address problems and to try to find solutions in the Arab World and to promote Arab contributions to world heritage and civilisation.

Nine delegates Monday made a visit to the ruins of the ancient city of Petra in the south-west of Jordan.

UNEP completes study

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) team Monday concluded a visit to Jordan during which they made studies on combating desertification and developing pastures in Jordan.

The study dealt with ways of stopping desertification, deterioration in pastures lands, improving the living standards of des-

ert area inhabitants and discouraging geographical migration. Jordan was among four countries chosen by the UNEP to carry out such a study, the other three countries being Indonesia, Peru and Botswana.

The study made by the team, who arrived here November 12, is regarded as the first of its kind in the programme.

NCC members call for end to travel restrictions

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — National Consultative Council (NCC) member Carlos De'emes has called on the Jordanian government to lift restrictions imposed last April on travel between the East Bank and the Israeli occupied West Bank.

The regulations, issued by the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, restrict the duration of West Bank and Gaza Strip residents' stay in Jordan. Residents of the West Bank on their visits to Jordan are allowed to stay one month only on each visit. The restrictions were said to aim at limiting emigration from the occupied territories. Due to the difficult economic situation, many West Bankers seek job opportunities in Jordan and the Gulf

countries. Dr. De'emes said in a speech to the council that "the negative effects of the restrictions have by far exceeded their positive effects." He did not elaborate but called for the lifting of these restrictions.

Similar observations were voiced by Mr. Leith Eshbeilat, who described as "insufficient" the support rendered to enhance the steadfastness of the people living in the occupied Arab territories.

He said that the travel res-



Members of the National Consultative Council Sunday debate the 1984 draft budget here (Petra photo)

trictions would not have had to be taken "had the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs been successful in carrying out its job of supporting the steadfastness of the people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

He said that the situation has deteriorated in the West Bank and engineers are compelled to learn Hebrew in order to find work in Israel.

"Is that what we want?" he asked.

Transport union to mediate on border

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Land Transport Union Secretary-General Abdallah Al Omour returned home Saturday after taking part in the union's general assembly and board of directors meetings held in the Tunisian city of Sousse December 6.

Mr. Omour said that the board took a number of decisions among

which were to give priority in transport and contracts to union member companies as well as giving employment to Arab workers over their foreign counterparts.

The board also decided to form a committee comprising the union's members to go to Syria and Iraq to propose an initiative by the union to reopen the borders

between Syria and Iraq and to cooperate the Iraqi petroleum line which pass across Syrian lands.

The union decided to hold its forthcoming meeting in Libya.

Mufti: Social affairs talks highlight food security

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development I'lam Al Mufti said that Arab food security was adopted as a major priority by the fourth session of the Ministerial Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs which concluded its meetings in Tunis on Dec. 6.

Mrs. Mufti, who represented Jordan at the meeting, said on her return Sunday evening that the meeting discussed a proposed charter for Arab children's rights, a national charter for comprehensive social development and as well as a programme for Arab technical cooperation in social work throughout the Arab League member countries.

Mrs. Mufti said the Jordanian delegation presented the conference with two papers on the role of women in rural production, and vocational training and recruitment.

The Jordanian team also took part in the executive committee meeting, which approved the organisation of two training courses on local community development and social research and planning.

Mrs. Mufti said. The two courses will be held at the Princess Rahmah Centre for Social Development in Amman early April, and will be attended by a number of Arab social workers.

Mrs. Mufti concluded.

Royal decree approves budget

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal assent Monday approved the revised 1984 budget, which reduced Jordan's deficit to JD 11.2 million.

The budget, which was also approved by the National Consultative Council (NCC) after a prolonged discussion Sunday, amounts to JD 770.2 million.

A total of JD 6.5 million was cut off the budget, the figure constituting a payment that was due to the World Bank, but Prime Minister Mudar Badran told the council Sunday that the payment was not scheduled in 1984.

Prior to its approval, the government budget was subject to an eight-hour detailed discussion by the NCC.

A total of 42 council members spoke on the objectives outlined in the budget, its implications and the government policy reflected in it.

Almost all of the speakers supported the objectives expressed in next year's budget, yet they raised some questions concerning different economic programmes and were critical of certain economic policies.

The government won unanimous support for its objectives of maintaining the high level of the armed forces and security organs, continuing to support of people in the occupied territories, raising local sources of revenue, and to extend modern services to all parts of the country.

Members, however, varied in their views on the means and methods of realising these goals. Aware of the impact that the decline of Arab aid will have on the economy, all members urged the Arab countries to fulfil "their national obligations" towards Jordan as a frontline state.

Although most members' criticism addressed specific economic programmes and policy, several members voiced criticism of the government policy embodied in the budget.

The most severe criticism was that raised by Leith Eshbeilat who expressed dissatisfaction with the government policy reflected in the budget.

Mr. Eshbeilat, who is also the president of Jordan's Engineers Association, described the budget as "non-reflective of the political situation in the country."

"This is a peace time budget," he said, "while Jordan is facing a dangerous situation emanating from the Israeli threat." In a long speech, Mr. Eshbeilat said that all government policies should be formulated with the aim of enhancing Jordan's confrontation capabilities.

"What is the use of building economic achievements if we cannot defend them?" he asked.

Mr. Eshbeilat, however, did not come out with an alternative.

Other members were also critical, though to a much lesser extent of the policies adopted in the budget.

Mrs. Laila Sharaf, who made an impressive speech and raised important questions, said "that priorities were not outlined clearly in the budget."

She added that "the budget does not clearly reflect government goals, as declared in the 1981-1985 Five-Year Development Plans to transform our

society from a consuming one to a productive one."

Mrs. Sharaf, however, praised the budget and expressed her appreciation and understanding of the austerity policy underlining it.

In general, members talked about a wide range of relating subjects but agriculture was a focal point in most of the speeches.

Members pointed out that Jordan is basically an agricultural country and thus more attention should be paid to that sector.

A report prepared by the council's Finance and Administrative Committee last week stated that the output generated from agriculture is very low, a fact which has contributed to the aggravation of the economic crisis that the country faces.

In their speeches, members stressed that low agricultural output is mainly due to the lack of "a clear agricultural policy."

The problems of marketing agricultural products, the gap between the cost and pricing of these products and the deficiency in services provided to the agricultural sector were all raised.

The speakers said that there is no agricultural pattern carried out in Jordan which regulated the kind of agricultural products that should be planted according to demand.

As a result, the local market is congested with certain products and efforts have not been made to find alternative markets.

It was pointed out that the prices of vegetables do cover the costs endured by the producer. Members also complained that the amounts allocated to the building of roads connecting agricultural lands and the markets are not adequate or needs.

Marketing the agricultural products abroad will cover the expenses which local markets cannot cover, she added.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

Al Ghul family and relatives announce with deep sorrow and grief the death of their beloved

Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Ali Al Ghul
vice-president of Yarmouk University

who died in London on Dec. 10, 1983 at the age of 60. His body will arrive at Queen Alia International Airport on the evening of Tuesday Dec. 13. Burial procedures: Leaving University of Jordan Mosque to Sahab Cemetery at noon on Wed. Dec. 14.

May his soul rest in peace

CABLE ADDRESS: Al Ghul, Jabal Hussein

Annab's ceramics glow with natural warmth

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As you enter the exhibition of ceramics by Najwa Ziyad Annab at the British Council this week, the first thing you are aware of is the rare atmosphere of calm her work seems to exude. There is a timelessness about it, a satisfying sense of continuity and, as your eye moves round the small display of some 33 vases, bowls and plates, you begin to understand what it is about these pieces that is so appealing.

First there is the unifying colour of the collection — a rich sienna brown that glows with a warm internal light. It is in fact the natural colour of the clay enhanced by a technique known as burnishing, and, as with all natural finishes, the colour not only varies between

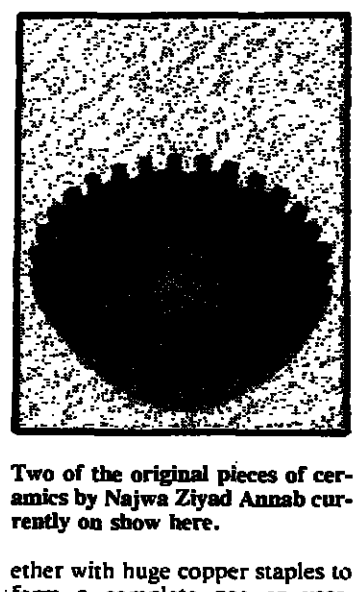
left to dry until their texture exactly resembles that of leather. At this point the surface of the pot is rubbed with the back of a silver spoon, a technique that produces the characteristically subtle shine of burnished ware. To keep the rich red tones of the clay the pots are then fired at a low heat, after which their designs and edges are given definition by smoking — the all pervading blackness of the charcoal filling every crevice. Finally, to remove the excess charcoal the pots are rubbed with olive oil, a process which also gives the ware a last coat of polish.

Evolving designs

While still at college and later in an effort to make her work more commercial, Miss Annab used to throw her pots on the wheel and glaze them. However, she never felt comfortable with these more familiar methods of producing ceramics and she soon returned to making her functional forms by coiling and by pressing the clay onto moulds — techniques that felt right for her. The designs with which Miss Annab decorates her work — usually strikingly simple geometrical patterns (at times they are reduced to just a series of parallel lines) — are formulated on paper first. However she rarely sticks to them and instead allows her designs to evolve as she works. The results are clear, clean, uncluttered and disciplined — Miss Annab seems to know just when to stop. As well as scoring her designs into the clay, Miss Annab also cuts out shapes in the sides of the vessels. To make a few small holes may take hours but it is well worth the trouble as these openings produce some very beautiful effects.



Intriguingly composed



other with huge copper staples to form a complete pot or vase, rather like a professional china mender would fix together a cleanly broken plate. Miss Annab's work however, looks very far from being patched up. The colour and shine of the metal so complements the finish of her work that the pots look totally complete and whole —

and yet the smooth dividing line that curves all the way round them tells you that they are intriguingly composed of very separate pieces. Although not as functional as they could be — they would leak — these vases are immensely attractive and it is good to see an original design in ceramics that does not rely on tired old organic shapes for newness.

Although just a recent graduate from the West Surrey College of Art in England, Miss Annab has nevertheless managed to produce one of the best exhibitions of ceramics we have seen in Amman for a long time. Modest, dedicated and sincere, she will go on from strength to strength. All the work is for sale although the majority of it was sold at the opening. The exhibition runs until Thursday, December 15.



REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY

PVW International Bridging and Harbour Works has an immediate vacancy for an office manager to work in their office in Amman. Applicants must be university graduates, fluent in English and must have adequate knowledge in business administration and public relations.

Excellent salary plus a car will be offered to the eligible.

For interview, call Amra Hotel tel: 815071 room 208 "Mr. T. Han" from 9:00 - 12:00.

TIME

FRUSTRATION IN ATHENS
FAILURE OF A SUMMIT (REPORT ON THE FAILED
ECC MEETING)

NATO'S NEW LEADER (LORD CARRINGTON SUCCEEDS LUNS)
SYRIA'S BID FOR PRIMACY
SYRIA'S RUTHLESS LEADERS (COVER STORY ON
MIDEAST STRUGGLE)

fashion furs MARCO & GEORGE rhodes

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If hope is not enough...

PRIME MINISTER Mudar Badran's statement to the National Consultative Council (NCC) Sunday contained a loud and clear message to the Americans: By signing those new agreements on "strategic co-operation" with Israel, Washington has completely taken sides with the enemy and against us, thus leaving itself no room to play its long-expected mediating role in the Arab-Israeli conflict. With a situation like this then, there can be no talk of peace except within the bounds of the United Nations, where the Soviet Union should participate equally with the rest to wrest a balanced and just settlement to the Palestinian problem, the prime minister indicated.

If the Reagan administration will not agree to Soviet participation in the search for a Middle East solution, and will not back down on its envisaged accords with Israel, then the Arabs are under no obligation to co-operate with the Americans on U.S. goals in this part of the world. Let the Israelis do it for them — and let us see how far they can get.

In his wide-ranging statement, Mr. Badran also stressed an important fact that must not be overlooked, here and abroad. Modern Arab history records that Arab countries, whenever faced with a tilt by the U.S. away from the Arabs and towards Israel, have tended to launch a protest here and there but the whole issue would soon be forgotten, in diplomatic channels and contacts or otherwise. Not this time though.

The Palestinian problem has always been the crux of the conflict in the Middle East, and always will be. The fact that it gets sidetracked at times in no way means that the Arabs will forget about their rights and their struggle of many decades to regain these rights.

The projected U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance will generate a violent reaction in the Arab World, the prime minister warned, and we hope that a more sensible approach by the Americans will prevail to avert such an eventuality.

And if hope is not enough at this stage, everyone must be prepared to see a worsening situation becoming increasingly deadlocked — with consequences unpredictable.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: End to U.S. mediation

IN HIS address to the National Consultative Council Sunday Prime Minister Mudar Badran referred to the danger inherent in the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance, describing it as a move that placed the U.S. in the same trench with the Israelis in confrontation with the Arab states. This means that the role which Washington was assuming as a peace mediator has now ended. The prime minister also said that any peace initiative should now be based on the conception of involving all concerned parties to the Middle East issue and also the Soviet Union, and that any search for peace should start from the very beginning and be based on U.N. resolutions.

If the United States insists on tackling the issue single-handedly and persists in its present policies, it must be made to realise two facts: That its alliance with Israel does not qualify it to play a peace mediator role and that the Arabs, who have been disillusioned by Washington's policies, will never from now on accept peace mediators who share with the Israeli enemy the desire to subvert and subjugate the Arabs to foreign domination after evicting them from their homelands. Reaction to the new alliance is bound to take on unpredictable proportions and forms.

Al Dustour: Full partner in aggression

IN HIS interview with an American television network, King Hussein made it clear that the search for peace is being confronted by Israel's intransigence and America's failure to honour its commitments towards this peace. He reiterated Jordan's total commitment to relentless efforts for the establishment of a just and durable peace based on U.N. Security Council 242. But he said that the recent U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance and Israel's persistence in establishing settlements on the occupied lands make it impossible for peace to be achieved.

The King pointed out that the most tragic thing about the whole issue was to see Washington rewarding Israel for rejecting the Reagan proposals by offering it unlimited military and economic assistance within the framework of an alliance directed in form and content against the Arab Nation. The new alliance makes the U.S. a full partner in aggression against the Arabs and the sufferings that have been plaguing the Arab Nation over the past 35 years.

Sawt Al Shaab: Peace only after withdrawal

IN JORDAN'S view a comprehensive peace means a total withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab land and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland. Israel's concept of peace is quite different. Israel wants the land and wants to build settlements on Arab territory and thus of course it displays total rejection of Jordan's views and peace concepts.

In his interview with an American television network, King Hussein voiced Jordan's readiness to do everything possible to achieve peace on the basis of the U.N. Security Council resolution. But Jordan does not accept peace based on injustice and aggression. How can peace be achieved if Israel continues to invade other Arab countries' lands and evict the indigenous population from their homes? The U.S.-Israeli alliance has drawn the Middle East region further towards international polarisation with the result that any hopes for peace and the settlement of the Palestine problem will be lost for ever.

The age of games

By Rami G. Khouri

ONE OF the grizzliest games in the Middle East world of fantasy is the game called: Make Believe the PLO Does Not Exist and Find Someone to Replace It. It is being played yet again these days, as it tends to be, by various players, at an average of once every 18 months. The game has several corollaries, including: Dazzle the Jordanians, Zap the Commies, and Pay Off the Israelis. The corollaries tend to enter the game just when the action reaches its peak, and it becomes difficult for the uninitiated observer to understand what's going on without a full explanation of how the game is played. As one of my occasional public service gestures, I hereby offer a simplified explanation of the game, for those who are puzzled by the things they hear or read these days.

Make Believe the PLO Does Not Exist and Find Someone to Replace It (hereafter known as MBP-LODNEFSRI) is a game that was invented in the late 1970s, after successive attempts in the 1950s and 1960s failed to relegate the Palestinian issue to the discard file of history. The Palestinians developed their own leadership, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), only after several decades of unsuccessful Arab attempts to confront the Israelis. Once the PLO was formally established in the early 1960s, ins-

titutionally strengthened in the late 60s, and internationally recognised in the early and mid-1970s, it became imperative, in the eyes of both Israel and the United States, to do away with it. At first, the PLO was simply ignored. Then it was branded purely as a terror organisation. Then it was physically attacked in Lebanon and elsewhere. Finally, in the late 1970s, Israel and the United States put their heads together and came up with MBP-LODNEFSRI.

It would be tempting to view this concept as a grand American-Israeli-capitalist-imperialist conspiracy, but I don't think this is the case. It is, in the end, just a game that people and powers play, as all of us play games when we want to get away from the depressing reality of our world.

As it is being played this season, MBP-LODNEFSRI has been triggered by the problems of the PLO in northern Lebanon, where the Arafat majority within the PLO is being subjected to an armed rebellion by Palestinian dissidents supported by Syria and Libya. The short-term chaos within the ranks of the PLO has been viewed by Western observers as the start of the disintegration of the PLO. And if the PLO starts disintegrating, it becomes an urgent priority to find someone to replace it. The game, at this stage, has started in earnest.

Several attempts have been made in recent years to find replacements for the PLO. These have included the Israeli-backed Village Leagues, the Egyptians (in the Camp David negotiations), and some mayors of the West Bank. In all cases, the game ended in failure, because an artificial Palestinian leadership to replace the PLO, and negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people, could never get anywhere precisely because it was artificial.

Now, the MBP-LODNEFSRI game is being played again, but this time the objective is to have Jordan replace the PLO. On the assumption that the PLO is finished (an assumption that we have heard several times in the last decade, and which was always proved wrong), the players of the game are looking to Jordan as the party that would step in and represent the Palestinians. This is where the "Dazzle the Jordanians" part of the game comes in. We are seeing a veritable chorus of Western, mainly American, suggestions that this is the time for King Hussein to make a bold gesture and present himself as the saviour of the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, to step forward and lead the Palestinians into negotiations under the aegis of the September 1982 Reagan initiative. Various means are used to Dazzle the

Jordanians. There is the withholding of substantial arms sales until Jordan plays the game. There is a dangling of American promises to deal forcefully with the Israelis if Jordan plays the game. There is, most recently, the taunting of the Jordanian leadership by suggesting that this is the time for Jordan to be bold and daring, instead of being "equivocal" and "hesitant".

Then there is the Zap the Commies corollary. This attempts to further camouflage the real intent of the game (to make believe the PLO does not exist) by appealing to a higher Arab fear of the "Soviet threat to the Arab World" — a rather peculiar threat, one thinks, when one recalls that Jordan has conducted arms purchase discussions with the Soviet Union in recent years. Jordan is asked to join in a reinvigorated American crusade against the Soviet Union in the Middle East by taking up the Palestinian banner, jumping in Ronald Reagan's lap and riding into Jerusalem, if not also into the sunset, on the back of Ronald Reagan's diplomatic horse.

The Pay Off the Israelis corollary is seen in the recent American-Israeli agreements on greater bilateral co-operation. These accords are still in their formative stages, to be sure, but the fact that the United States is taking great pains to assure the Arabs that

these accords should not be seen as a threat to the Arab World is the greatest indication, in Arab eyes, that these accords are a potentially significant threat to the Arab World.

It seems to me that here is yet another attempt, by the Israelis and the Americans, to have Jordan pay the price for a continued lack of reason, boldness and realism on the part of the Americans and the Israelis. It is irrelevant to the American-Israeli combine that the present attempt to entice Jordan into speaking for the Palestinians runs against everything that Jordan has said and done for the past decade. In the world of games, you see, reality does not count for much.

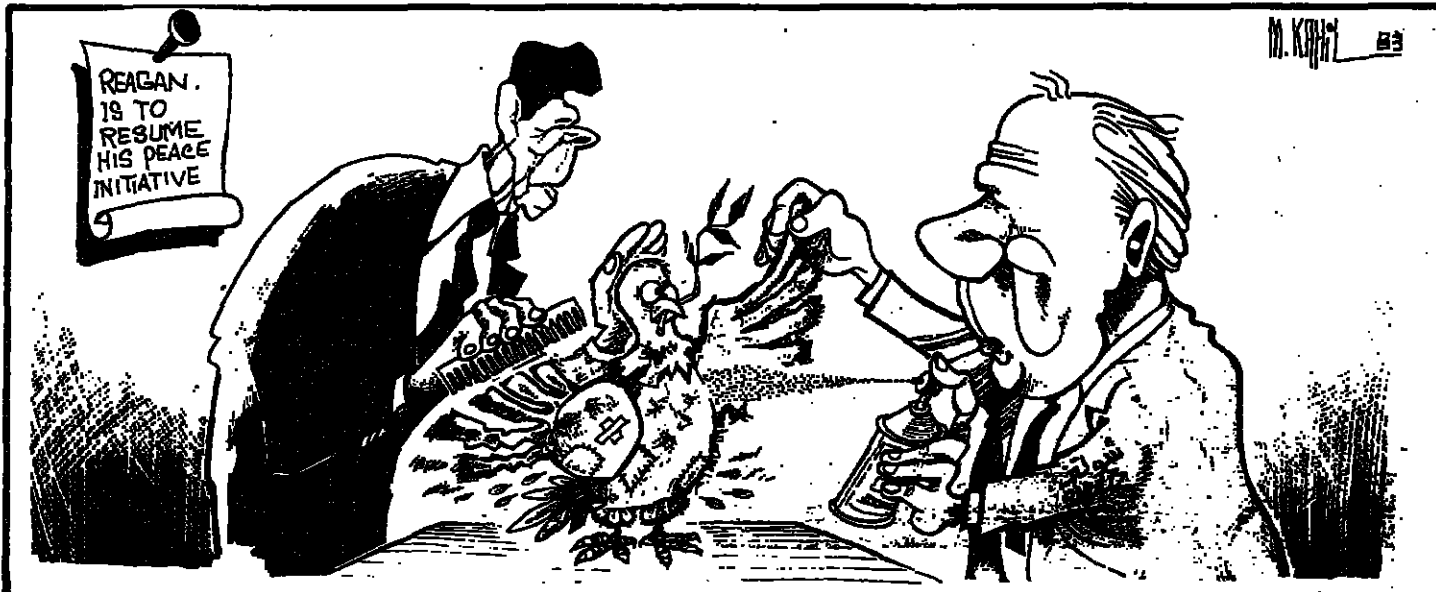
Furthermore, the assumption that Mr. Arafat is finished, and that the PLO has fallen into Syrian-Libyan-Soviet hands, is rather premature. But this, too, matters little to those whose desire to play games is stronger than their capacity to live with the facts of the real world.

One of the most important and hopeful Arab developments in recent years has been the initiation of a serious attempt by Jordan and the PLO to work out a joint political programme that would respond to the peace-making impulses of all those, in the Arab World and beyond, who aspire to resolve the Pal-

estian issue, and not to wish it away. Those who would wish the best for Jordan should spend less time asking it to dress up in Palestinian clothing, but rather should work harder to create conditions favourable to the conclusion of a Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating position that could be ratified by the majority of Arabs. It is precisely because Jordan has recognised the reality, and importance, of an independent PLO, working in the interest of Palestinian national self-determination, that a joint Jordan-PLO political programme looms as a hopeful possibility, in the wake of the resolution of the power struggle now taking place within the PLO.

If the situation in the Middle East is increasingly complicated and messy, this is in large part a reflection of the unwillingness of the world, and particularly the game players of the world, to heed clear Jordanian calls for a resolution of the Palestine problem.

The game-playing will continue, however, and I have no doubts that the results will always be the same. Only the Palestinians can speak for themselves, and only a joint Palestinian-Jordanian consensus can lead to a viable negotiating partnership that can, one day, call the American bluff on peace-making in the Holy Land.



The superpowers are doomed to coexist

By James Callaghan

LONDON — President Reagan need be in no doubt that his "ash heap of history" speech, with its colourful phrases pouring scorn on the Soviet system, struck home in Moscow. Eighteen months later, it still ripples. Whether it did any good is another question.

Take part in a discussion in the Kremlin and, as the compass needle unswervingly seeks the magnetic north, so will the conversation veer automatically to the dire state of U.S.-Soviet relations. The Russians do not say that it is utterly impossible to do political business with the Reagan administration, but it is made clear that although private exchanges can and do take place, little business of real importance is transacted.

Can this deadlock be broken? I argued in Moscow that it must be, for this nuclear world is too dangerous for the superpowers to be shouting so loudly that they cannot hear each other speak.

As a committed supporter of the present U.S. administration would be willing to play its part in reaching understandings that are acceptable to both sides. If this

should not be true, then the consequences will be as serious for the alliance as for U.S.-Soviet relations. A growing number of young people in Europe would argue passionately — but mistakenly — that there would be nothing to choose between the two sides. And the biggest arms race in history would gather momentum, wasting resources that the United States could devote to better purposes.

What animates increasing numbers of Europeans is not so much increased fear of the Soviet Union as increased fear of nuclear war itself. I hope the policy-makers in Washington clearly grasp the implications.

Moscow, meanwhile, has discarded the arguments advanced 40 years ago by Soviet theoreticians that war between capitalism and communism is inevitable. They acknowledge that the present confrontation is highly dangerous, but not hopeless. I heard it argued that it resembles the events that led to World War I, by which I assumed it was meant that war could spread through a chain reaction, perhaps starting in some smaller country and eventually engulfing us all.

But their main point is that this

can be forestalled by a joint drive toward some order in the world, instead of toward a zero-hour clash. This would require an understanding of what is acceptable behaviour by each side.

Underlying the argumentation is an unshakable belief that the United States must deal with the Soviet Union as an equal on world problems. I trust that no one in authority believes seriously that the Soviet Union can be driven to submission either by economic sanctions or by an arms race. East-West differences on such issues as human rights and the treatment of dissidents will remain and should be strongly expressed; nevertheless, as was said to me by a Soviet official, "We are doomed to coexist," and it is possible that a will exist in Moscow to find ways of lessening the present tension.

First, though, both sides must start talking to each other. Not in public, but in private. Unpublished and confidential talks about the fundamental differences between East and West could explore whether there is basis for an agenda, and test whether the Soviet Union is ready to assist in reducing tension in some of the more excitable parts of the world.

On nuclear arms, it is sheer

common sense that the cycle of response and counter-response should be broken. There is a case, now that the deployment of cruise and Pershing-2 missiles is beginning, for bringing together the two sets of nuclear negotiations after a suitable interval, and for including both British and French missiles in the calculations.

Yet such talks would succeed only if the political will was present. The first sign that both sides are in earnest will come when they cease making public offers and begin to negotiate in private. And for agreement to be possible, both sides must feel that the result will leave them as secure or more secure than when they started.

While in Moscow, I tried to understand the Soviet point of view, even while I set out the West's perceptions of events with vigour. A short while ago, the Politburo issued a summary of what had taken place at its regular weekly meeting. One item said that Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko had reported to his fellow members on his conversations with me. The moral is that it cannot be wrong to talk and to listen. It may lead to more understanding and even to some agreement. — The New York Times.

NATO will continue missile deployment

By Heinz Peter Dietrich
Reuter

BRUSSELS — NATO has made clear it will not be moved from its resolve to deploy new U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe, but it hopes Moscow will not abandon East-West dialogue and will come to next month's Stockholm Disarmament Conference.

This was the main message after two days of talks here by foreign ministers of the 16 Atlantic alliance countries.

In a "Brussels Declaration", the ministers urged the Soviet Union and its allies to return to the nuclear arms negotiating table in Geneva and offered an open and comprehensive dialogue.

Reports that a vacuum at the top may be hindering decision making in Moscow were indirectly dismissed by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who told reporters Soviet President Yuri Andropov appeared to be at work and in charge.

NATO clearly blamed Moscow for the Soviet walkout from the Geneva arms talks. It said it hoped the Russians would come to Stockholm to help reduce the risk of accidental war in Europe and to broaden the dialogue between NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

The ministers played down tension caused by the arrival of new U.S. nuclear missiles in Britain, Italy and West Germany, and said the best course of action for the West was to demonstrate its unity and firmness while the Soviet Union rethinks its approach to arms control.

But they made no concession to encourage a Soviet return.

NATO's outgoing Secretary-General Joseph Luns said the sitting of the first nuclear missiles had "restored the credibility of our nuclear deterrent".

The ministers also moved to

underline the close ties between Washington and its European allies when they declared "our legitimate security interests can only be guaranteed through the firm linkage between Europe and North America."

Neither the "Brussels Declaration" nor the meeting's final communiqué contained any concession intended to bring the Soviet Union back to disarmament talks. The ministers felt it was up to Moscow to decide when and how to return.

The communiqué said ministers instructed the Council of NATO Ambassadors to carry out a full review of East-West relations, recommend ways to improve the dialogue at their next meeting in Washington in May.

Greece did not endorse most of the paragraphs criticising Moscow.

The ministers rejected what they consider to be Soviet efforts to use the medium-range missiles issue to drive a wedge between Western Europeans and the United States, saying in the declaration: "Our legitimate security interests can only be guaranteed through the firm linkage between Europe and North America."

"We call upon the Soviet Union to respect our legitimate security interests as we respect theirs."

The final communiqué confirmed the appointment of former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, 64, to succeed Mr. Luns when he retires on June 25 after 12 years as secretary-general.

Mr. Luns, 72, held the post for more than 12 years. NATO officials hope his successor, widely regarded for bringing about an agreement in 1979 that gave Zimbabwe independence under black majority rule, will improve the alliance's public image.

LETTERS

Sitting on a barren rock?

To the Editor:

Further to your editorial comment on agricultural policies in Jordan (Jordan Times, Dec. 7, 1983), I attach an article published by the International Management Magazine in its May '83 issue. (see page 5).

The article reveals an ambitious plan by the Saudi government to reach self-sufficiency in agricultural production by the year 1986. As can be seen from the article, the Saudis are investing billions of dollars in that project.

What strikes me most about this are two facts:

Firstly: The Eastern part of Jordan — called Badia Al Sham is not exactly a desert when compared to the Saudi desert, and should therefore be easier to cultivate. Secondly: Irrigation water is being pumped from enormous wells under the Saudi desert while the annual rate of water fall over Jordan is much greater than that over Saudi Arabia. Why are the Jordan water authorities then unable to find water that meets our needs to irrigate what is wrongly called "the Jordan Desert"? Is the situation of water in Jordan similar to that of oil which is being pumped out in all neighbouring countries except us? Is it possible that we alone in the Middle East are sitting on top of a barren rock? If not, let us right away start doing something about irrigating our "desert" — it should not cost us that much money, just effort.

Abdullah Hasanat,
Amman, Jordan.

John in Leds

Desert conditions are perfect for intensive farming

By Jules Arboise

Peering down from an airliner in some areas of the Middle East, it is easy to gain the absurd impression that giant geysers are playing tidily on the desert sands. Massive green circles, ranging in size from 50 to 60 hectares, blossom below, surrounded inconspicuously by sand.

The verdant swards are neither mirages nor oases. They are lush man-made pasture-lands that have been systematically cultivated and irrigated in the desert as part of an impressive green revolution that is taking place in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Modern, intensive farming management techniques are being used in both countries, with heavy input from U.S. and European agribusiness companies, to reclaim the desert land in an effort to achieve self-sufficiency in food production.

Centre pivot irrigation systems, developed and built by several U.S. manufacturers, have been the key in opening up the hot, dry desert as a manageable natural resource and in allowing farming to take place on a large-scale industrial basis. The irrigation system's gangly piped arm, which can extend up to 500 metres, rotates round the clock on a radial axis like a giant propeller on wheels. It sprinkles water, insecticide and fertilizers on plots of land that are, almost twice the size of the average 30-hectare farm in Europe.

Cash crop harvests from the former arid wastelands would be the envy of farmers anywhere in the world, and the reclaimed land's ability to supply year-round green forage has already enabled cows in the desert to surpass the

milk yields of Europe's top dairy herds.

Over the last few years, centre pivot irrigation systems have become as prominent a feature of the Saudi landscape as oil rigs were in the past. It is estimated that some 4,000 separate systems, all fed by dominant water deposits, are now operating in the kingdom, which aims to increase cultivated land from about 600,000 hectares to a possible 4 million hectares.

The allocation of funds for major irrigation projects is in addition to the \$2.4 billion that the Saudi government is committed to spending on other farming projects and subsidies during its current (1980-85) five-year plan, which has the ambitious target of achieving agricultural self-sufficiency by 1985.

Government subsidies ranging up to 50 per cent mean that local merchants can buy farm machinery, dairy and poultry equipment, feed concentrates and fertilizers at very favourable prices. As a result of the huge incentive programme, Saudi farms now supply 83 per cent of the country's liquid milk requirements, 33 per cent of its poultry needs and 80 per cent of egg consumption.

Crop subsidies would make Western farmers blush. For example, Saudi farmers sell wheat to government silos or flour mills for \$1 a kilogramme, or about seven times the world market price. The vast funds going to wheat have led to a leap in local production — 300,000 tonnes last year, compared with 3,000 tonnes in 1981. This year's wheat harvest is expected to hit 550,000 tonnes, putting the annual self-sufficiency wheat target of 800,000 tonnes

well within reach over the next three years.

Looking for sandy pastures

In the Todhiya Valley, a fertile stretch between the capital Riyadh and Haradhin central Saudi Arabia, virgin wheat fields bloom on the desert sands virtually overnight, according to Seamus O'Dwyer, head of hydraulic-powered centre pivot irrigation systems sales for Masstock Saudi Ltd. As a sign of the times, he adds: "In the Todhiya Valley alone we are probably pumping more litres of water from the ground than Aramco is lifting in oil from the whole of Saudi Arabia."

Masstock, a Northern Ireland-based company, is one of the pioneers of wheat and forage crop production and dairy cattle farming in Saudi Arabia. Founded in the 1920s, Masstock established its reputation by using modern farming techniques to develop the largest and most productive milk herd in Ireland.

In 1976, however, the company was faced with stagnating growth in Europe for sales of its intensive dairy farming systems and chairman Alastair McGuckian began looking for more sandy pastures. "We saw Saudi Arabia as a new opportunity for us, despite the warnings that we could never raise dairy cattle and grow crops in such a harsh climate," he says.

Since then, the ruggedly-built McGuckian, in partnership with Prince Sultan bin Mohammad bin Saud Al Kabir, has set up six dairy farms and 12 wheat farms in the kingdom. In addition, three Masstock dairy farms and 20 wheat farms are scheduled to come on

stream over the next year. All are self-contained units located in remote parts of the desert.

Unlike most of its competitors, Masstock specialises in ongoing management rather than turnkey projects. To ensure the efficient development of each farm, it provides detailed project planning, land reclamation, irrigation and hydrology, forage production, livestock supply and civil engineering facilities. It supplies all the machinery for developing, irrigating and cultivating the land and harvesting crops as well as for milking the cows and processing the milk. It builds all the farms' workshops, storage and accommodation units and installs all the power generation, refrigeration and water purification facilities.

"Farming needs as much, if not more, financial and management control as any manufacturing business," says McGuckian. "This is why we insist on long-term management contracts for all our facilities. With modern, intensive farming techniques and the application of sophisticated control and monitoring systems, it is possible to improve efficiency ratios and achieve annual productivity gains just like any industry."

McGuckian recalls that initially he also had some doubts about the water supply, soil conditions and the ability of Friesians and Holsteins to survive and produce milk in summer temperatures that reach upwards of 50 degrees celsius. But they were squelched during one of his three exploratory trips to the kingdom, after he visited a research station in Hofuf, where a team from Bangor University in Wales was doing

experimental work in raising dairy cattle and forage crops. "They had a good reporting system, and their research convinced me that farming in the desert on a large industrial basis could be a profitable commercial undertaking for us," he says.

In mid-1976, Masstock signed its first contract to build a dairy farm and within weeks had mustered a team of high technicians, including an hydrologist to look for a suitable site. "A source of water was our first priority," says McGuckian, "and we really started from scratch. We literally walked into the desert from a predetermined point. There were no roads, no houses, no electricity. Just sand."

Sand is rich in nutrients

In the first project (and in all subsequent ones), Masstock came across great variances in both the composition of the soil and the depths that had to be drilled to find suitable water. Contrary to popular belief McGuckian says, "chemically, there is a lot of nutrition in sand."

Generally he has found it to be rich in potash with a good level of acidity, but lacking in phosphates, nitrogen and trace elements, all of which can be corrected through proper fertilisation. Masstock also turns its cow manure into a slush that is spread on the cultivated fields, to compensate for the lack of organic matter in the soil.

Sands with high levels of salinity have to be flushed and cleansed to depths of nearly a metre. Heavy earth has to be tackled with a road ripper to aerate the soil. "Sand dunes are easy," quips McGuckian. "They just have to be smoothed down."

To find fresh water, Masstock has drilled wells to depths of 2,000 metres and has discovered it as shallow as 100 metres. "The coverage is about 300 metres," he says. "If we hit salty water, we ease off the well with a lining and drill right on down past it."

Barely three months after signing the contract, Masstock began flying in the equipment for its first dairy farm. Within six months of signature the whole dairy plant and cattle housing were in place and the cows in calf, selected from professional breeders in the United States, Australia, and Holland, began arriving. "We were growing 70 hectares of grass with two centre pivots when the first batch arrived," says McGuckian.

In all, 500 cows were flown in. Within three to four months of arrival, they had calved and were producing milk. "We began earning revenues by selling bulk milk to traders in March, 1977," recalls McGuckian. "By June, we were packaging our own milk and selling 6,000 litres of it daily to the public under our own Almarai brand label."

During its first summer of operations in Saudi Arabia, Masstock found that heat stress was a problem for the cows and affected milk yields. It has since experimented with several systems, including roof insulation, fans and cooling ducts in an effort to lower the temperatures in the barns where the cows spend most of the summer months. The most effective cooling method has proved to be an automatic sprinkler system that directs a fine spray of water on the cows periodically throughout the day and night.

In spite of the intemperate summer months, Masstock has consistently increased the yields of its dairy cows and claims now to have herds that exceed the best producers in Europe. The first herds started with milk yields of about 5,000 litres a year per cow, which is better than the national average of most countries.

But at Ath Thumama farm, which was built for the late King Khalid near his summer palace 75 kilometres north-west of Riyadh, Masstock is managing a herd that has an average annual yield per head of 6,200 litres of milk. "That's top bracket dairy farming, and well in excess of the annual average yields of about 5,500 litres for Dutch cows and 5,000 litres for British cows," says McGuckian.

The rates would even be higher if Masstock were allowed to cull 20 per cent low yielders from the herd, a common practice in other countries. But the Saudi government, which pays the freight cost of flying in the cows (it costs \$160,000 to hire a jumbo jet that carries about 180 cattle), is committed to expanding the cattle population of the country and limits culling to 5 per cent.

Constant monitoring of each cow's performance and acting immediately on feed-back accounts for the higher yields, according to Ivan Morrison, manager of Masstock's Todhiya dairy farm. 160 kilometres east of Riyadh. An example is the detailed record that Masstock units keep of each of their cows, recording everything from the animals' "grandparents" to its offspring. The record contains current daily and previous annual milk yields, a

complete medical history and such esoteric information as the cow's intervals between insemination and calving.

"All of this information is vital for breeding purposes," says Morrison. "By carefully monitoring the daily performance of each cow we can calculate almost to the day when it is time to give her a rest and begin a new breeding cycle or whether we should continue to supplement her diet with concentrates to increase her productivity."

But even McGuckian concedes that the centre pivot irrigation system has made it all possible. "We have better milk yields because we can feed our cows green material all year round," he says. "In Europe, you can produce grass for six or seven months a year. Here we get about 12 harvests of fresh grass every year. In Europe, farmers would be happy with three."

"To most people the desert represents the most horrendous crop growing conditions in the world," adds McGuckian. "But the conditions are actually perfect for intensive farming. We get all the sunshine we need. We have absolute control over the water, and we don't have to worry about the rain ruining the harvest."

As for profits, McGuckian's brother, Paddy, notes that European farmers would be happy with a 4 per cent on sales. "Here, because of the high risk involved and the huge initial investment in time and money, I would be less than happy with twice that amount. And that's only in dairying. In wheat, we aim to make considerably more." —International Management.

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Holmes gives up WBC title

LAS VEGAS (R) — Larry Holmes, World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champion for more than five years, gave up his title on Sunday in a surprise move.

The 34-year-old American announced his decision at an executive council meeting at the annual WBC convention at Caesars Palace here.

Holmes' resignation comes after a lengthy controversy with the WBC over his next title defence. The WBC said Holmes must fight number one contender and compatriot Greg Page, while the champion said he would not do so because the money offered "was not enough."

The WBC were ready to strip Holmes of his crown and declare the heavyweight title vacant, according to boxing sources at the convention here on Saturday.

But Holmes beat them to the punch. "I made up my mind to

resign early this morning," said Holmes. "I don't want to embarrass the WBC. I don't want to embarrass (promoter) Don King and I don't want to embarrass me."

Holmes' announcement was met by applause and displays of goodwill between Holmes, King and WBC President Jose Sulaiman.

Sulaiman called Holmes "my champion", though at a WBC banquet Saturday night Sulaiman failed to mention Holmes when acknowledging all other WBC champions.

Sig Rogich, first vice president of the WBC and a member of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, said: "Under the cir-

cumstances this is probably the best thing for everyone involved."

Rogich said the WBC would order a fight for the vacant title between Page and American Tim Witherspoon, their number two contender, "within 90 days."

"The WBC threatened to strip Holmes of his title unless he honoured a signed contract with King to fight Page in a mandatory title defence early next year."

Holmes repeatedly said he would not be dictated to by "any promoter or organisation." He said the \$2.5 m King was going to pay him to fight Page was not enough.

Holmes said he preferred to fight World Boxing Association (WBA) heavyweight champion Gerrie Coetzee of South Africa, a fight which could make him four times the money. King said he would not increase Holmes' purse for the Page fight.

"There's no pressure on me," said Holmes as he left for the airport and a return flight to his home in Easter, Pennsylvania.

Two probable boxing groups under whose auspices Holmes could fight are the WBA and the newly-formed International Boxing Federation.

Singapore to host Asia-Oceania Olympic qualifying soccer

TOKYO (R) — The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Monday decided to select Singapore as the site for the second round of the Asia-Oceania soccer elimination for the Los Angeles Olympics Games.

An AFC spokesman said the selection of Singapore was decided unanimously without taking a vote.

He said the one-round round-

robin series of both Group 'A' and Group 'B' will be staged at Singapore from April 14 to 29 to decide the three teams going to the 16-nation soccer Olympics.

The spokesman said the two group winners would qualify and the runners-up of both groups would vie for the third place on April 29.

Kuwait, New Zealand, South Korea, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia are in Group 'A' and Malaysia, Thailand, Iraq, Qatar and Japan will play in Group 'B', he said.

General Secretary of the International Football Association (FIFA) J.S. Blatter said the series would be decided on goal difference in case of ties.

The spokesman said the proposal to select Singapore as the site was advanced by Thailand, Malaysia, South Korea, New Zealand and Japan.

New Zealand had proposed a home-and-away series but agreed on Singapore as the site after Malaysia agreed to play three friendly matches in New Zealand including Auckland sometime in April.

The spokesman said New Zealand wanted to host matches in the country to promote soccer.

India collapses after Lloyd's century

CALCUTTA, India (R) — India collapsed to 36 for five in their second innings after a mastery of 161 not out by Clive Lloyd put West Indies in command of the fifth cricket test here on Monday.

Tuesday's rest day will be one of bitter reflection for the Indians who on Sunday had West Indies on the run at 88 for five. But Lloyd's 18th test hundred lifted his side to 377, a lead of 136, and now India, with half their second innings wickets gone, need a further 100 runs to avoid losing by an innings and going 3-0 down in the six-match series.

Lloyd's partner in rebuilding the West Indian innings was fast bowler Andy Roberts, who made 68 and helped his captain add a record 161 for the ninth wicket.

Malcolm Marshall and Michael Holding tore India's second innings to shreds in 11 overs before the close of the third day. Holding taking three for 11 and Marshall two for 20.

Ghana's Kotoko beats Egypt's National to win African Cup

KUMASI, Ghana (R) — Ghana's Asante Kotoko, fired by a match-winning goal from Opoku Nti, landed the African Champions' Soccer Cup here on Sunday.

Kotoko beat holders National of Egypt 1-0 in the second leg of the final to complete a 1-0 aggregate success after a goalless draw in the first leg in Cairo two weeks ago.

Opoku's decisive goal came in the 22nd minute watched by 100,000 fans crammed into the Kumasi sports stadium.

The dominant Ghanaians, who recaptured the premier African soccer trophy after 13 years, soon forced National (Al-Ahly) onto the defensive and only brilliant saves from goalkeeper Ekramy stopped Kotoko's rampaging forwards from adding to the score.

Kotoko's win, which avenged

last year's 4-1 aggregate defeat by the Egyptians in the final, triggered an ecstatic victory parade through the streets of Kumasi, Ghana's second city and home of the Ashanti people.

Most of the spectators slept in the open around the stadium Saturday night for lack of hotel accommodation.

Opoku's goal and decisive role in both legs of the final is certain to fuel efforts to tempt him away from Ghana.

A top Ivory Coast club are leading the hunt to Sign Opoku, whose languid and elegant style belies a venomous streak in front of goal.

Kotoko will supply the bulk of Ghana's national team, the Black Stars, when they defend the African Nations Cup in the finals in Ivory Coast next March.

Alexander bundled out of NSW Open

SYDNEY (R) — Defending champion John Alexander of Australia was bundled out in the first round of the New South Wales (NSW) Open tennis tournament by little-known American David Pate here Monday.

Pate, a Las Vegas 21-year-old ranked 147th in the world, upset the odds with a 6-1, 5-7, 6-4 victory over the Australian Davis Cup player.

On a bleak day for Australia, John Fitzgerald was lucky to survive a tense match against American tournament qualifier David Dowlen, making heavy weather of his 6-7, 6-4, 7-5 win.

But Wally Masur, drafted into the Australian squad to meet Sweden in the Davis Cup final later this month, continued his winning run by beating team-mate Brad Drewett 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.

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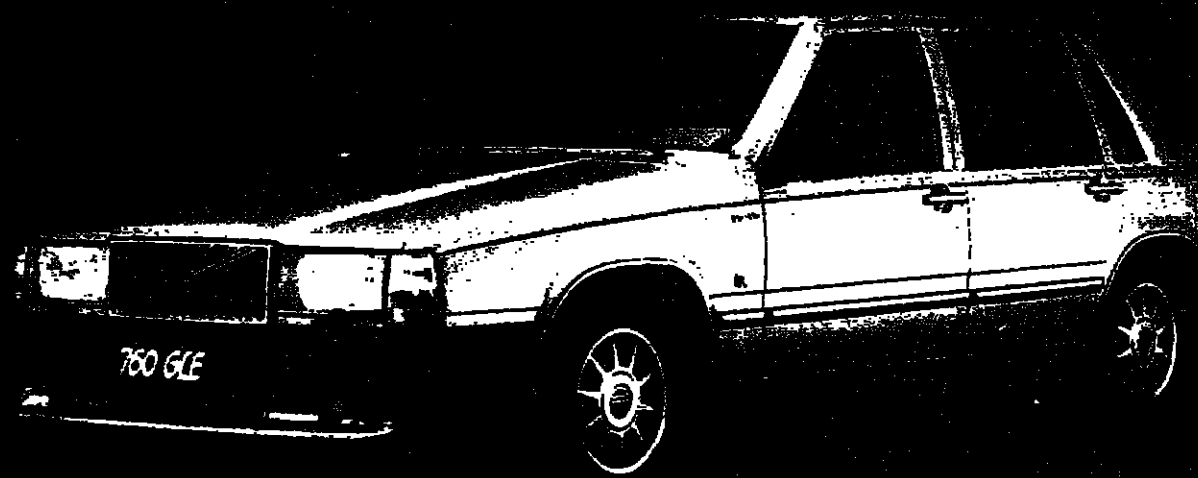
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China's foreign debt totals \$3b

PEKING (R) — China's first published figures for its outstanding foreign debt said it totalled \$3.00 billion at the end of September. The latest issue of the official magazine Zhongguo Jinrong (China Finance) published the figures along with foreign exchange and gold statistics which it has issued since 1981.

It said China's foreign indebtedness totalled \$3.432 billion at the end of July and \$2.960 billion at the end of August.

Western bankers said China owed money mainly to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and Japan from which it had borrowed at highly favourable rates. It had generally shunned long-term commercial loans, they said.

They said the figures published by Zhongguo Jinrong were \$1 to \$2 billion lower than foreign estimates, possibly because the official figures did not include China's short-term debts on the international money market.

Several other countries, including the Philippines, also excluded such debts from their published figures in order to make their financial position appear healthier than it was, the bankers said.

But they said China had little reason to doctor its figures as its foreign exchange and gold reserves were vast.

Its foreign exchange holdings totalled \$14.066 billion and its gold reserves amounted to 12.67 million ounces at the end of September, according to official figures.

Australian dollar gains

SYDNEY (R) — The Australian dollar moved higher against the U.S. dollar in a hectic first day's trading on local foreign exchange markets after the government's decision to float the currency. Dealers said.

But the gains, amounting to a revaluation of about 2 per cent, were well short of the 5 per cent rise anticipated in some financial circles, they said.

The government announced last Friday that it was abolishing foreign exchange controls and allowing the dollar to float in line with most other Western industrialised nations.

The dollar rose to 92.60 U.S. cents as a high for the day compared with the final mid-rate set by the Reserve Bank last week of 90.25 cents.

Treasurer Paul Keating said he was well pleased with the settled nature of the first day's trading. Market estimates put Monday's turnover at around 300 million dollars (\$276 million) with active buying and selling of the dollar.

Dollar surges on news of Kuwait bomb blasts

LONDON (R) — The dollar surged on foreign exchange markets Monday on reports of a series of bomb attacks in Kuwait against mainly U.S. targets.

Confirming investors' faith in the dollar as a safe haven for funds at times of international tension, the U.S. unit gained against every major currency while gold, the traditional refuge, scarcely moved from its pre-weekend level around \$390 per ounce.

In Frankfurt, the dollar reached 2.7547 marks, its highest for nearly 10 years, after news of the first bomb blast at the U.S. embassy in Kuwait. This was more than a penny above New York's level of 2.7433 marks late on Friday.

The U.S. currency hit a record high against the French franc at 8.3663 francs, was near a record against sterling, which at one point sank to \$1.4320, and also made strong gains against the Swiss franc and the yen.

Dealers said reaction to the bombings had outweighed the effect of last Friday's \$2.1 billion decline in U.S. M-1 — the narrowly defined measure of liquid money supply — which had depressed the dollar in New York trading.

The dealers said other factors underpinning the dollar were U.S.-Soviet tensions over arms talks, expected increases in other U.S. monetary indicators and last Friday's comment by Treasury Secretary Donald Regan that U.S. interest rates would stay high.

In Europe, investor confidence in West Germany has been hit by the flick bribery scandal and the charges impending against Economics Minister Otto Lambsdorff, and the dealers said these factors had depressed the mark and mark-denominated funds.

The Bundesbank and the Bank of England were both detected in

the markets on Friday, but dealers said there was no sign of official intervention Monday.

During morning trading the dollar settled slightly above 2.75 marks and also steadied against the other major currencies.

In Bahrain, interest rates on large Saudi riyal deposits in Bahrain were unchanged from Sunday, but the spot riyal fell following reports of bomb explosions in Kuwait, dealers said.

The dollar strengthened on the reports, and was quoted at 2.7535/00 against 2.7410/40 in Gulf trading Sunday. The spot riyal, which firmed Sunday to 3.4806/11 in the absence of an anticipated riyal devaluation, was quoted at 3.4815/18.

Dealers said trading was moderate, but the market was nervous. Banks holding dollars were consolidating positions, but there was little new dollar position-taking as dealers awaited guidance from Europe.

Top banker calls on Fed to ease policy

NEW YORK (R) — The head of the largest bank in the United States has called on America's central bank to ease its credit policy to prevent economic recovery being choked by high interest rates.

Mr. Walter Wriston, chairman of Citicorp, told Reuters in a weekend interview that he feared slow growth of the money supply would halt recovery in the United States.

"It's a risk that should be reduced, and I think it can be reduced," he said.

M-1 money supply — cash plus checking accounts — has grown very little recently and is below the Fed's target path.

The Fed has not relaxed monetary policy because it fears fast economic growth could rekindle inflation, but some officials argue that M-1 growth is so weak that

current borrowing conditions could cause renewed recession next year.

A relaxation of the policy would provide cheaper borrowing and make the dollar less attractive as an investment.

Mr. Wriston forecast that the U.S. economy would continue to show good growth in 1984 unless stifled by monetary policy.

"The worldwide recession was brought on by our Federal Reserve locking the wheels of the world when the president was elected — the most severe monetary restraint I can remember," he said.

Inflation could quicken slightly next year and interest rates rise marginally as a result, Mr. Wriston said. The dollar would remain strong because of its role as a safe

haven from political uncertainty.

Mr. Wriston said countries with debt problems could recover quickly and resume borrowing on international markets, if they took timely measures to stabilise their economies.

"Mexico, I was told (in 1982), was going to go bankrupt and drag down the international banking system," he said. But now the country had a large balance of payments surplus, strong oil exports and a budget deficit halved to 8½ per cent of its gross domestic product.

Mr. Wriston led the commercial bank side of rescue efforts for Brazil and Mexico, the largest Third World debtors.

Citicorp is the largest U.S. banking institution by assets.

Meanwhile, Fed officials who

meet next week to set monetary policy, are sharply divided over whether they should tighten credit and so force interest rates up, board sources say.

Several policymakers are deeply worried that the pace of economic growth is so rapid that it may soon cause inflation to flare up again.

But the sources said other officials argue that M-1 is so weak that it means current credit conditions could plunge the country into recession next year.

These officials believe that trends in monetary growth signal future economic behaviour. They fear that even though the economy is performing well today, the current sluggish pace of M-1 should be regarded as a warning sign.

Bahrain stock market may open by mid '84

BAHRAIN (R) — The Bahrain stock exchange will probably begin trading in the first half of 1984, exchange coordinator Mr. Abdul Razak Zain Al Abedin said Sunday.

Legislation would be introduced soon to set up the market, which would trade initially only in shares of Bahraini companies, he said. But the legislation would also provide for trading of other financial instruments and commodities in the longer term.

Mr. Al Abedin was speaking in a panel discussion on Gulf equity markets at a banking conference here organised by the Middle East Economic Digest.

Mr. Clive Smith, general manager of the National Bank of Abu Dhabi's merchant banking division, said establishment of a stock market in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) would take longer to bring to fruition.

Legislation to set up the stock exchange would go before the UAE cabinet shortly, but its finalisation was likely to await approval of a commercial companies law also nearing completion, he told the conference.

Mr. Smith said the companies law would allow for a number of different classes of limited liability companies, so that finalisation of the stock exchange law would have to await their exact definition.

He also said a major body of opinion in the UAE favoured an electronic trading system rather than a traditional floor, which he said would give the regulatory authorities greater control over trading.

Trading would probably initially be confined to local firms although debt instruments could also be quoted, he said.

Mr. Smith, Mr. Al Abedin and other panelists were at pains to stress Gulf states' concern to ensure orderly trading on their new markets, in the wake of the Kuwait Souk Al Manakh crash.

Mr. Al Abedin said the Bahrain securities law would ban trading outside the official market and the use of post-dated cheques.

Their comments followed a speech by Mr. Seraj Al Baker, deputy general manager of the Kuwait International Investment Company, who said other Gulf states would have to learn from Kuwait's mistakes in setting up their own equity markets.

Among failings of the Kuwait market he listed inadequacy and irregularity of corporate reporting, excessive speculation, lack of proper evaluation of investment prospects and of experienced brokers.

Mr. Al Baker said it was desirable that a broader range of financial instruments was traded on the Kuwait stock exchange.

In addition to Kuwaiti dinar bonds from both domestic and foreign issuers, these could include options, futures and Kuwaiti depositary receipts representing shares of foreign firms.

Such a spread of instruments would offer a wider range of investment opportunities, as well as mobilising resources for companies and government agencies and broadening the scope of monetary control over the economy, he added.

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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SKUNK EPOCH OBTUSE MISHAP
Answer: What the new father of quintuplets just couldn't believe — HIS "CENSUS"

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed quietly mixed Monday but small selective demand made for a firm undertone, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. index was up 0.4 at 757.5.

Gains among leading issues were cut back after disappointing half year results from GEC, dealers said. GEC itself was 1½p off at 175 but BTR firmed 15p to 432 on investment demand.

Government bonds showed net falls ranging to ½ point reflecting concern over sterling's weakness and higher U.S. interest rates. Gold shares firmed and North American shares were mixed.

Boots, Glaxo, Grand Met and BOC firmed between 4p and 6p while ICI ended unchanged at 650 after 652. Lucas fell 3p to 168 after news of further redundancies announced at the annual general meeting Monday, dealers said.

Hill Samuel was 23p up at 346 on renewed bid speculation. Lloyds Bank was unchanged at 564 on news that it reached agreement to buy parts of West German private bankers Schroeder, Muenchmeyer, Hengst Und Co. Eagle Star was a net 15p lower at 697 awaiting bid developments.

Oils ended narrowly mixed.

LONDON EXCHANGE-RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4345/55	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.2473/76	Canadian dollars	
	2.7508/18	West German marks	
	2.0840/50	Dutch guilders	
	2.2198/2108	Swiss francs	
	55.80/84	Belgian francs	
	8.3635/65	French francs	
	1666.00/1667.00	Italian lire	
	236.02/12	Japanese yen	
	8.0600/30	Swedish crowns	
	7.7800/30	Norwegian crowns	
	9.9740/70	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	390.75/391.25	U.S. dollars	

Peanuts

Mutt 'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope
from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good morning for showing your ability to tie loose ends together. The rest of the day and evening are great for putting into effect new plans of operation in an up-to-date way.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle worrisome matters early, and then you can go after personal aims. Enjoy the company of good friends this evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Settle details early so you will have less trouble gaining personal goals. Spend an enjoyable evening with your mate and friends.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Clear your desk of any jobs that still need handling. Later on, you can be with persons from whom you could learn a great deal.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Collect all the data you can regarding a new venture you started. Get backing from a bigwig. Show wisdom.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Improve your credit standing by getting caught up on all your bills. Look into more lucrative interests. Be careful in making decisions.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Handle a problematic affair with a partner in the morning, but know what is expected of you first. Tonight is romantic.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Give your fullest attention to your work in the morning otherwise you will lose out on bigger things. Be clever.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Put the finishing touches on creative work; you will gain from it. Feel satisfied and happy tonight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) The situation at home could be confusing, but show patience. A modern type of amusement could be interesting.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You may get some confusing communications; study them carefully to understand them. Get into the spirit of things tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Penetrate some problematic affairs after lunch. After a successful day, take time to see friends and relations.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Concentrate on your finest goals in life, and draw up a plan for attaining them. Improve your appearance and health. Be financially astute.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be someone who should be taught the right philosophy of life otherwise your progeny will never be sure of the self. Teach morality and discrimination, and upon adulthood he or she can be a force for good in the world.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword by May Mannix

ACROSS

1 Cork's place
5 Word with suit or shirt
10 Rum cake
14 Biblical victim
15 Downy duck
16 Father of 14A
17 Egyptian queen of the gods
18 Where Greek met Greek
19 Comedienne
20 — bragg
22 Eight furlongs

DOWN

1 Facility
2 Construction beam
3 Uncommunitative
4 Post Wylie state
5 Plant of the lily family
6 Peruke
7 Esau's later name
8 Lot's residence
9 Irish seaport

ACROSS

24 French denial
25 Invents
27 Burbot
29 Working powers
32 Wallace
33 Sunburn
34 Hungarian river
36 Hawaiian greeting
40 Paddy plant
42 Gunpowder
44 Celtic name
45 Choose
47 Teen-age hyperbole
49 Sea bird
50 Brick holder

DOWN

51 Stations
53 Cylindrical
54 Brilliance
55 Artless
56 Deplete
57 Noted hat designer
61 Muscle
63 First place
64 European capital
65 Dark brown
66 Alphabetical sequence
68 Before

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Soviets confirm launchpad mishap

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet space officials confirmed Monday that two cosmonauts ejected to safety from an exploding launch rocket last September and that the manned Salyut-7 orbiting station had been hit by a fuel leak.

Answering questions at a Moscow press conference, cosmonaut Vladimir Lyakhov and space training chief Vladimir Shatalov gave the first official word on the two incidents, reported earlier by Western intelligence sources.

Space officials had earlier denied there had been any mishaps during the 149-day mission aboard Salyut-7 by Lyakhov and engineer Alexander Alexandrov. The two returned to earth on Nov. 23.

Asked whether it was true to a relief had been due to fly to Salyut from the Baikonur cosmodrome in September, Lyakhov replied: "The launching was planned for

Sept. 26 and it was true that there was an accident and the crew was ejected and returned safely. We were told immediately."

Lyakhov said that as a result of the accident he and Alexandrov stayed aboard Salyut longer than planned and carried out a modified work programme there.

According to earlier reports from unofficial Soviet sources, the launch vehicle exploded as it was lifting off from Baikonur and the two crew were injured by the acceleration from their ejecting Soyuz capsule.

Gen. Shatalov confirmed reports of the fuel leak in a pro-

pulsion system on the cylindrical orbiting station, but played down the importance of the mishap.

According to some Western newspaper reports in October and November, the leak virtually immobilised the 47-tonne space complex and put the cosmonauts' lives in danger.

"Indeed there was a problem in one of the subsystems and there was a leak of a certain amount of fuel but the station continued to be viable with that part of the station switched off," he said.

The subsystem was used for correcting Salyut's orbit and manoeuvring for docking, Gen. Shatalov said.

He said back-up systems coped with the failure and he denied that two space walks performed by the cosmonauts in the closing stages of their flight had anything to do with the leak.

"The station is in good repair and is ready to receive new teams," Gen. Shatalov said. An Indian cosmonaut is due to fly to the station with a Soviet crew early next year.

The cosmonauts installed solar batteries during a total of five hours activity outside the station. Gen. Shatalov said these ensured the energy supply for scientific experiments.

Gen. Lyakhov and Alexandrov said the space walks were emotionally the high point of their long flight.

"It was a very emotionally charged situation. I wanted to tell people what I felt. When you looked down and saw the earth was dark, it was like a shadow theatre," Alexandrov said.

"When you threw objects away they became little stars. It was very beautiful. Words fail me to describe all that," he said.

Countdown to 1984

By Cy Fox
Reuser

LONDON — It has almost arrived — the year of Newspeak, thought police, Doublethink and Big Brother.

And the novel that gives the very mention of 1984 a nightmare chill is being commemorated with vast new press runs, plans for special editions and renewed controversy.

George Orwell, a desperately sick man, ground out "Nineteen Eighty-Four" on a remote Scottish island 35 years ago, writing between onslaughts of the tuberculosis that soon killed him.

The book had been five years in gestation and gave final expression to a loathing of totalitarianism rooted in the experience of two wars and sounded in countless essays and in books like that fable of a revolution betrayed, "Animal Farm."

The story is about Winston Smith, a minor cog in the huge state machinery of falsification who falls foul of the ruling party in the Britain of 1984 and is tortured, drugged and browbeaten into subservience. But Orwell always insisted it was no attack on the British socialist government of his day.

Instead he had sought to expose "the perversions to which a centralised economy is liable and which have already been partly realised in communism and fascism," Orwell said in rejecting interpretations of the book as an anti-socialist tract.

Some readers took it to be a prophecy of how the West would have evolved by 1984. But Orwell did not believe the society he described — dominated by a single all-seeing clique and devoted, beneath the shadow of Big Brother, to the exercise of total power for its own sake — would necessarily come about.

"But I believe... that something resembling it could arrive," he went on.

Orwell contended that the intellectuals of his time had been seduced by totalitarian ideas and that "Nineteen Eighty-Four" showed the logical outcome of their attitudes.

"The scene of the book is laid in Britain in order to emphasise that the English-speaking races are not innately better than anyone else and that totalitarianism, if not fought against, could triumph anywhere," he said.

Clear as this Orwell statement of intention seems to be, critics still differ about the real nature of the book.

Some see it as Orwell's last, deeply pessimistic political testament, written towards the end of a tragically short life — he was just 46 when he died in 1950 — by a man whose vision reflected the morbid effects of TB and the psychological scars left by a particularly oppressive early schooling.

Certainly the picture painted by Orwell of life in his imaginary 1984 and beyond is wholly grim. "If you want a picture of the future," says Winston Smith's relentless interrogator, O'Brien, "imagine a boot stamping on a human face — forever."

But Orwell's biographer, politics professor Bernard Crick, maintains that "Nineteen Eighty-Four" was not the writer's last word on human destiny. "It



George Orwell

was simply the last book he finished before he happened to die. He might have lived. He was already planning a new novel," Prof. Crick says.

Fantasy, not prophesy

The critic Julian Symonds considers "Nineteen Eighty-Four" to be not so much a prophesy as a fantasy through which the real world of Orwell's own time and ours is rendered.

Symonds, a friend of Orwell's in the 1940s, emphasises how "Nineteen Eighty-Four" reflected the bleak circumstances of life in Britain during that decade of war and post-war and how it anticipated "some of the most wretched aspects of our own world" — the blind violence of football crowds and political mobs, the chronic regional wars, the mass production of debased art.

But he adds that "in excruciating bad world, Orwell never lost his vision of a good one."

Many readers, however, still are not convinced by the positive side of Orwell's vision — his belief, for instance, in the enduring goodness of the mass of ordinary workers, or "proles" as he calls them in "Nineteen Eighty-Four."

A college teacher in New York City reported recently that the first response of one of his classes to reading Orwell's novel was hatred for the book.

"My general feeling is disgust or depression," he quoted a student as declaring.

Other current reactions are far less dismissive, highlighting Orwell's alarm at the systematic debasement of language for political purposes. "Political language," he wrote in 1946, "has to consist largely of euphemism, question-begging and sheer cloudy vagueness."

Computerised world

Also seen as underlining the novel's relevance are the widening range of official snooping and the power of computers both for gathering personal information and reorganising humanity's collective memory with an efficiency beyond the wildest dreams of Orwell's thought police.

"The state it warns us of is here already," said one contributor to a new collection of commentaries on the book's significance to the contemporary world.

Others see the Orwellian nightmare as now taking on real-life form in the head offices of great corporations as well as in political bureaucracies, while conservatives have long sought to prove it the end result of the wel-

fare state.

But American historian Arthur Schlesinger disagrees.

"Nineteen Eighty-Four is nearly upon us now, and it is obviously not going to be the world Orwell predicted a third of a century ago," Schlesinger wrote in the New York Times.

In fact the book, he said, was not prediction at all but part of the literature of warning, of "admonitory fantasy."

For his part Symonds said that, in choosing "Nineteen Eighty-Four" as a title, Orwell was not announcing and intention of making positive predictions about what the world would be like by that year but was simply inverting the last two figures of 1948, when his book was completed.

Such arguments about "Nineteen Eighty-Four" will go on throughout what its publishers have dubbed "the year of the book" — at seminars and meetings planned by Orwell's trustees and other organisations around the Western world.

The book is almost as ubiquitous in the non-communist world as Big Brother's image in Oceania. It has been translated into at least two dozen languages since it came out in 1949.

In the first year after publication, more than 50,000 copies were sold in Britain, while in the United States, with sales buoyed by publicity in the mass-circulation Life magazine and the swing to conservatism so deplored by Orwell, the figure reached 360,000 in the same period.

Penguin books, British paperback publishers of "Nineteen Eighty-Four," say they have sold 3.5 million copies and that total international sales have passed 15 million.

The London firm which first brought out "Nineteen Eighty-Four," Secker and Warburg, has announced a new collected edition of Orwell's works, running to 17 volumes, for next year.

The firm says research has revealed typographical and other inaccuracies which are being corrected for the coming edition.

The volumes will include a fresh gathering of Orwell's letters, essays and journalism, much of the material previously unpublished.

Secker also plans publication of "Nineteen Eighty-Four," now in the hands of an American bookdealer and insured for \$250,000.

The 180 pages, partly typed but with the later sections handwritten by the bedridden Orwell, show how he constantly reworked his prose to produce the book's closely pared style.

They also contain references judged at the time to be potentially shocking and cut before publication.

In October 1948, Orwell wrote to a friend of "struggling with the last stages of this bloody book" which had haunted him since he began making notes for it in 1943.

The end was near to an undertaking which would have made him a rich man after years of penury.

But on Jan. 21, 1950, then a patient in a London hospital and still pining for a degree of health that would allow him a few hours of writing a day, George Orwell — "the wintry conscience of a generation" — died of a lung haemorrhage.

COLUMN

British businessman was murdered in France, family says

LONDON (R) — A British businessman found drowned near a secret French naval base on Dec. 2 was murdered, according to his family. A spokesman for the family dismissed newspaper reports that Niall Campbell was a spy but said: "The family has decided he must have been murdered but it remains a mystery as to why."

Campbell, a 42-year-old executive for British chemicals giant imperial chemical industries, disappeared while in Paris for a one-day business conference. His body was found 450 kilometres away in Brest naval harbour, northern France. The family spokesman, speaking at Campbell's cottage near Harrogate, northern England, told reporters Sunday: "Niall was not the kind of man to commit suicide."

Karachi hospitals run short of blood

KARACHI (R) — An anti-drugs campaign in Pakistan's port city of Karachi has dried up blood supplies because most regular donors were drug addicts, a local newspaper said Monday. At least three operations had been postponed by hospitals for lack of blood as the number of regular donors fell from about 150 per month to 13, the English-language daily Dawn reported. It said the blood of the 13 donors was so weak that it was not accepted. Pakistan, which has become a major exporter of illegal drugs in recent years, now has about 100,000 heroin addicts, twice the number recorded in 1982, the chairman of the Pakistan narcotics control board said Sunday.

7,000 Indonesians reportedly murdered

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's shadowy death squads may have killed up to 4,000 suspected criminals in an anti-crime drive over the past nine months, the country's leading human rights activist said, Adnan Buyung Nasution, a former public prosecutor and founder of the Indonesian legal aid institute, accused the government of carrying out the killings and challenged President Suharto to intervene to stop them.

Filipino detainees plan hunger strike

BAKOLOD, Philippines (R) — Parishioners of three missionaries and six others accused of murder will hold a nine-day daytime fast in protest at delays in their bail hearings, church sources said. The priests, Irishman Niall O'Brien, Australian Brian Gore and Filipino Vicente Dangon, were arrested in May along with six lay church workers accused of the ambush murder of the mayor of Kabankalan, central Philippines, in March 1982. Church sources said parishioners of the communities served by the priests and the lay workers, members of a group called the basic Christian community, would refuse food from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the nine days before Christmas.

Protestants rap Pope's historic step

ROME (R) — Pope John Paul's visit to a Lutheran church Sunday marked an important step towards healing more than four centuries of Christian division, but left unresolved the basic underlying differences, Protestant church sources said. A sharply worded statement by the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy said they had declined to send a formal delegation to Sunday's service because it gave a false idea that church unity was just round the corner.

Chinese Buddhist tradition reviewed

PEKING (R) — Chinese Buddhist monks and nuns are being urged to scrap a 1,000-year-old initiation rite of scalp burning because it is bad for their health, the New China News Agency said Monday. It was not a Buddhist rule in other countries and should be abolished because it was harmful to health, the council said.

Alfonsin expected to purge Argentine military

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's new civilian president, Raul Alfonsin, was expected Monday to announce a purge of senior armed forces officers after nearly eight years of right-wing military rule, military sources said.

They said more than half the army's generals, who total about 50, will be forced into retirement and not replaced, and smaller numbers of top-ranking officers will be purged from the navy and air force.

The purge will be particularly severe in the army because it has

not weeded out officers responsible for Argentina's defeat by Britain after it invaded the British Falkland (Malvinas) Islands colony last year.

Mr. Alfonsin has also blamed senior military officers for human rights abuses and the disappearance of up to 30,000 people in a wide-ranging crackdown which began as a fight against left-wing guerrillas.

He was sworn in last Saturday, having won a landslide victory in general elections on Oct. 30.

Kampuchean leaders visit Peking today

PEKING (R) — Kampuchean leaders Khieu Samphan and Son Sann will arrive in Peking Tuesday for talks with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of their anti-Vietnamese coalition, a Democratic Kampuchea embassy spokesman said Monday.

Khieu Samphan, foreign minister of the coalition and Son Sann, its prime minister, would meet Prince Sihanouk when he arrived from Paris on Thursday, he said.

Khieu Samphan and Son Sann were invited to Peking by the Chinese government and their visit would last about 10 days. They would arrive from Bangkok, the spokesman said, but declined to give further details.

Western and South East Asian diplomats expressed surprise at the planned meeting of the three leaders, who have never concealed their mutual animosity.

"The fact that all three are turning up in Peking at once would seem to mean the coalition has greater cohesion than most of us would have expected," one Western diplomat said.

He said they were likely to discuss the future of the shaky coalition, but declined to speculate further.

Sihanouk, a neutralist, has frequently threatened to pull out of the coalition because he is deeply embarrassed by being associated with Khieu Samphan, one of the most powerful members of the Khmer Rouge who were alleged to have killed millions of people when they ruled Kampuchea from 1975 to 1978.

But the coalition has held together despite the problems because its leaders see it as the only way of driving the estimated 180,000 Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea.

U.K. women protesters besiege missile base

GREENHAM COMMON, England (R) — Thousands of women anti-nuclear protesters have besieged Britain's sprawling cruise missile base and briefly forced breaches in its three-metre perimeter fence.

Chanting, singing and blowing whistles and trumpets they assaulted sections of the 14-kilometre fence during a huge protest at Greenham Common air base, 80 kilometres west of London.

The demonstration by 30,000 women was the biggest against the presence of cruise nuclear missiles in Britain since the first batch of an eventual 96 arrived at the base last month.

Women swayed the fence in many places and it gave way at two points although barbed wire barricades and lines of unarmed soldiers blocked the way for the handful of women who got over.

Police arrested 42 women and 18 others were seized by military police just inside the base.

A police inspector was knocked unconscious by a three-metre concrete post and taken to hospital.

Many protesters brought Christmas hampers for members of

the Greenham Common women's peace campaign, some spending their third winter in a tented "peace camp" outside the base.

The protest marked the fourth anniversary of NATO's 1979 decision to base 572 new medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe to counter growing numbers of Soviet SS-20s.

The nuclear debate has been fuelled in Britain by the screening last Saturday night of the controversial American television film "The Day After" depicting the destruction of an American town in a nuclear war.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), which claims 250,000 active supporters, issued leaflets and advertised nationally this weekend to ram home the message of the film.

Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine went on television and radio repeatedly Sunday to insist that his defence policies were designed to stop the film becoming reality.

A mass-circulation daily newspaper, The Sun, said Monday 27 million people, nearly half the population, would die in a nuclear attack on Britain.

Ruling party's factional wars mark Japan elections

TOKYO (R) — The struggle between parties is only part of the battle in Japan's general election campaign.

Even fiercer, and perhaps more significant, is the parallel conflict that pits factional groups inside the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Virtually no political observer expects the LDP to lose its 28-year hold on power when the votes are counted on Sunday.

But the complexion of the party, and consequently of the government, could change in line with the fortunes of rival LDP candidates.

The faction system, the parties within the party, has operated ever since the LDP was formed in 1955 through the merger of two conservative groups.

Elections since then have been power passing, not between the LDP and the opposition, but between the factions, each one headed by a powerful political personality and funded by various interests.

Now, the main struggle inside the LDP is between those who back Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and his patron, ex-premier Kakuei Tanaka, and those LDP members who seek the eclipse of both.

Opponents of Mr. Nakasone are making maximum capital out of the scandal in which Mr. Tanaka was given a four-year jail sentence in October for accepting a \$2 million bribe from Lockheed Aircraft Corporation.

Factional rivalry in an election is made possible by the system of multi-member constituencies. All but one of the 130 constituencies have between three and five seats in the House of Representatives.

LDP rivals are thus enabled to stand against each other as well as the opposition in the same district. The elections each have one vote and victory goes to these candidates with the biggest totals.

One of the bitterest factional contests is in Mr. Nakasone's own constituency, Gumma prefecture in the mountains north-west of Tokyo.

Standing against the prime minister in the five-seat constituency is one of his most ardent foes, former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda who never forgave Mr. Nakasone for deserting him in 1972 and backing Mr. Tanaka for LDP

leadership.

In previous elections, Mr. Nakasone has finished four times ahead of Fukuda and eight times behind him.

Both are certain to be returned to parliament. It is traditionally important for an incumbent prime minister to top the poll in his own constituency. If Mr. Fukuda again comes out top it would dent Mr. Nakasone's party prestige.

Another acrimonious contest is in Tokushima between cabinet secretary Masaharu Gotoda, a Tanaka backer, and former Prime Minister Takeo Miki who would like to see "kingmaker" Tanaka thrown out of politics.

Followers of Tanaka, still acknowledged as Japan's most powerful politician for all his setbacks, nurse a special hostility for Mr. Miki.

It was Mr. Miki who, when he was prime minister in 1976, gave the go-ahead for Mr. Tanaka's arrest and prosecution.

In the heat of the factional strife, opposition parties are sometimes almost disregarded. The prime target of the anti-Nakasone factions is to increase their strength beyond the 42 seats they held in the old house of representatives.

The pro-Nakasone section of the LDP held 173 seats. Only 31 LDP members operated outside the factional folds.

Largest of the pro-government factions was the 64-man bloc controlled by Mr. Tanaka who, though forced out of the LDP by the Lockheed scandal, continued to exert power as an independent member of the house.

Mr. Nakasone's own faction amounted to 46 followers. The other so-called mainstream group was led by another ex-prime minister, Zenko Suzuki.

The three anti-Nakasone factions were one led by Mr. Fukuda, one by ex-Trade Minister Toshio Komoto and a small six-man group whose leader committed suicide last January.

The strength of factional rivalry is reflected in the 339 candidates fielded by the LDP, the largest number in 11 years.

In nine electoral districts pro-Tanaka candidates are pitted not only against other factions and the opposition but against each other as well.

Bush speaks against death squads in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR (R) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush said right-wing death squads threatened U.S. support for war-torn El Salvador which relies heavily on economic and military aid from Washington.

In a speech at a dinner given by President Alvaro Magana and boycotted by right-wing leader Roberto D'Aubuisson, Mr. Bush said El Salvador's new democracy was "under attack not only from communist guerrillas supported from abroad, but also from extremist right-wing terrorists."

Human rights organisations here say death squads have killed more than 1,000 people this year. "If these death squad murders continue, you will lose the support of the American people," said Mr. Bush, who held talks with government leaders on human rights, economic and military aid and presidential elections set for next March.

He also urged guerrillas to take part in the elections. He told reporters at the airport before leaving Monday: "The Salvadoran government is ready to discuss security and other arrangements to ensure the fair participation of the guerrillas."

Dhaka ban on politics to remain till elections

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's military ruler, Hossain Mohammad Ershad, Monday ruled out an end to his ban on politics although he has released four opposition leaders from house arrest.

He told reporters that martial law would not be lifted until elections were held, an apparent reference to presidential and parliamentary polls he has scheduled next year.

Gen. Ershad seized the political initiative at the weekend when he took over as president, called for talks with his opponents and released four politicians, all of them women.

Asked whether he would lift restrictions on political activity, Gen. Ershad referred to last month's unrest in which six people were killed and about 500 were injured.

"I lifted restrictions and saw what happened. Someone has to run the government," he said. After the disturbances, Gen. Ershad reimposed a ban on politics and put Dhaka and the country's main port of Chittagong under curfew.

Several opposition groups have attacked Gen. Ershad's plan to hold a presidential poll in May ahead of the promised parliamentary election.

They also expressed disquiet over his takeover of the pre-



Gen. Ershad

sidency after ruling the country as chief martial law administrator and there has been no sign so far that they will call off a general strike planned for Dec. 20 to back demands for an immediate return to democracy.

But Home Minister Maj. Gen. Abdul Mannan Siddiqui told Reuters the response from some opposition groups to Gen. Ershad's call for talks to hasten the return of democratic government had been very favourable.

He hinted that Gen. Ershad might be willing to drop arrest orders for politicians who had gone into hiding if the talks started soon.